

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR BOATS AND ASSOCIATED  
EQUIPMENT**



December 6, 1998

**AUTHORITY:** These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapters 42-35, and 46-22 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
Division of Enforcement

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR  
REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR BOATS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

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REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR BOATS  
AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

**RULE 1. PURPOSE:**

These rules and regulations are promulgated in accordance with R.I. General Laws Section 46-22-5(k) to adopt regulations consistent with the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 as amended.

**RULE 2. AUTHORITY:**

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to R.I. General Laws Chapter 42-17.1 Environmental Management, and general laws section 46-22-5(k) in accordance with chapter 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

**FEDERAL PREEMPTION ACT:**

State statutes and regulations concerning boats and associated equipment standards and requirements must conform to Section 6, Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, as amended which provides:

"Unless permitted by the Secretary under section 1 of this act, no State or political subdivision thereof may establish, continue in effect, or enforce any provision of law or regulation which establishes any boat or associated equipment performance or other safety standard, or which imposes any requirement for associated equipment, except, unless disapproved by the Secretary, the carrying or using of marine safety articles to meet uniquely hazardous conditions or circumstances within the State, which is not identical to a Federal regulation issued under Section 6 of this Act."

**RULE 3. APPLICATION**

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purposes of state law, goals, and policies.

**RULE 4. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "**Aids to Navigation**" means any device designed or intended to assist the navigator to determine his position or safe course or to warn him/her of danger or obstructions to navigation
- (b) "**Motorboat**" as defined by R.I. General Laws § 46-22-2(b), means any vessel whether or not the vessel is propelled by machinery. For purposes of this chapter, motorboat shall not include houseboats as defined in Rhode Island General Laws § 44-5-25.1.
- (c) "**Personal flotation device**" means a device approved by the Commandant, United States Coast Guard, pursuant to Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations Part 160.
- (d) "**PFD**" means personal flotation device
- (e) "**Personal watercraft**" as defined in Rhode Island General Laws § 46-22-2(f), means a small class A vessel less than sixteen feet (16') in length which uses an outboard motor or an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motive power; and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on, or being towed behind the vessel, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside of the vessel.
- (f) "**Racing shell, rowing scull, and racing kayak**" as defined by federal law, means a manually propelled boat that is recognized by national or international racing association(s) for use in competitive racing and one in which all occupants row, scull, or paddle with the exception of a coxswain, if one is provided, and is not designed to carry and does not carry any equipment not solely for competitive racing.

(g) "**Readily available**" when used to describe the accessibility of life jackets or fire extinguishers and visual distress devices means that the equipment described is visible to the operator and passengers and easy to gain access to in the event of an emergency and not locked in a container, closet or compartment.

(h) "**Recreational Boat**" as defined by federal law, means any vessel manufactured or used primarily for non commercial use; or leased, rented, or chartered to another for the latter's noncommercial use. It does not include a vessel engaged in the carrying of six or fewer passengers for hire.

(I) "**Regulatory markers**" means any device which indicates to a vessel operator the existence of dangerous areas as well as those which are intended to restrict or control, such as speed zones and areas indicated to a particular use or to provide general information and directions. This includes, but is not limited to, bathing markers, speed zone markers, information markers, danger zone markers, boat keep-out area, and mooring buoys.

(j) "**Serviceable condition**" when used to describe the condition of life jackets and fire extinguishers or visual distress devices means that the life jacket, fire extinguisher, or visual distress device is in working condition and that the device is as manufactured with out modification or missing, broken or torn parts, and any expiration date on the device is still valid.

(k) "**Vessel**" as defined by R.I. General Law §46-22-2(g) means every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

## **RULE 5. ENFORCEMENT.**

Pursuant to R.I. General Laws §46-22-17 the Department of Environmental Management Conservation Officers, harbormasters, and police officers have the authority to enforce state laws and regulations on all tidal and non-tidal waters of the state. In his/her jurisdiction an enforcement officer has the authority to stop and board any vessel to check for compliance with state law.

## **RULE 6. PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES.**

### (1) Applicability

These regulations shall apply to all recreational boats that are propelled or controlled by machinery, sails, oars, paddles, poles, and all other vessels except racing shells, rowing sculls, and racing kayaks used on waters subject to the jurisdiction of this State except:

- (a) Foreign boats temporarily using waters subject to State jurisdiction
- (b) Military or public boats of the United States, except recreational public vessels.
- (c) A boat whose owner is a state, other than this state, or sub-division thereof, which is used principally for governmental purposes, and which is clearly identifiable as such.
- (d) ship's lifeboats.

### (2) PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES REQUIRED.

(a) No person may use a vessel, less than sixteen (16) feet in length, or any canoe or kayak unless at least one PFD of the following types or their equivalents listed in Table I is on board for each person.

- (1) Type I PFD (Off Shore Life Jacket)
- (2) Type II PFD (Near Shore Buoyant Vest)
- (3) Type III PFD (Floatation Aid)

(b) No person may use a vessel, sixteen (16) feet or more in length unless at least one PFD of the following types or their equivalents listed in Table I is on board for each person:

- (1) Type I PFD (Off Shore Life Jacket)
- (2) Type II PFD (Near Shore Buoyant Vest)
- (3) Type III PFD (Floatation Aid)

(c) In addition, no person may use a vessel, sixteen (16) feet or more in length, except a canoe or kayak, unless at least one Type IV PFD (Throwable Device) or its equivalent listed in Table I is on board in addition to the PFD's required in paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) EXCEPTIONS

(a) A Type V PFD (Special Use Device) may be carried in lieu of any PFD required in subsection (2) if that Type V PFD is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for the activity in which the vessel is being used.

(b) A Type V Hybrid Inflatable PFD may be carried in lieu of any PFD required in subsection (2) if that Type V PFD is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for the activity in which the vessel is being used.

(4) STOWAGE

(a) No person may use a vessel unless each Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type V PFD required by subsection (3) is readily accessible.

(b) No person may use a vessel unless each Type IV PFD required by subsection (3)(c) is immediately available.

(5) CONDITIONS: APPROVAL: MARKING.

No person may use a vessel unless each device required by subsection (2), or each device allowed by subsection (3) is:

- (a) In serviceable condition IE, all straps, hardware, cover, flotation material in undamaged condition;
- (b) Legibly marked with the approval number as specified in 46 CFR Part 160 for items subject to approval; and
- (c) Of an appropriate size for the person for whom it is intended.

(6) PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE EQUIVALENTS.

Table I lists devices that are equivalent to personal flotation devices.

**RULE 7. FIRE EXTINGUISHING EQUIPMENT.**

(1) Applicability.

This section applies to all boats, to which this Act applies, that are equipped with propulsion machinery.

(2) CLASSIFICATION OF MOTORBOATS

Motorboats subject to the provisions of this section shall be divided into the following four classes:

- Class A. Less than sixteen (16) feet in length.
- Class 1. Sixteen (16) feet or over and less than Twenty-six (26) feet in length.
- Class 2. Twenty-six (26) feet or over and less than forty (40) feet in length.
- Class 3. Forty (40) feet or over and not more than sixty-five (65) feet in length.

(3) Prohibition.

No person may use a boat unless it meets the requirements of subsection (4) through (8).

(4) Classification of fire extinguisher.

Hand portable and semi-portable fire extinguisher must meet the requirements set out in 46 CFR 76.50 5.

(5) Fire Extinguishing Equipment required

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), all boats which are 65 feet in length or less must carry the minimum number on hand portable fire extinguisher as set forth in Table II(a).
- (b) All boats greater than 65 feet in length must carry the following fire extinguishing equipment:
  - (1) The minimum number of hand portable fire extinguisher as set forth in Table II (b); and
  - (2) The following fire extinguishing equipment fitted in each machine space:
    - (a) One Type B-II hand portable fire extinguisher for each one thousand break horsepower (1,000 BHP) of the main engine, or fraction thereof. However, not more than six such extinguishers need be carried; and
    - (b) On vessels over 300 gross tons, either one type B-II semi-portable fire extinguisher, or a fixed fire extinguishing system.

(5) Boats less than 26 feet in length.

A person using a boat equipped with an outboard motor, less than 26 feet in length, need not comply with Table II (a) if the construction of such boat will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gasses or vapors.

(6) Stowage.

- (a) Each item of fire extinguishing equipment required by subsection (4) must be:
  - (1) Stowed away from the potential hazard area; and
  - (2) Readily accessible.
- (b) Each dry chemical type fire extinguisher carried must be stowed in a horizontal position.

(7) Approval; marking; condition.

Each item of hand portable or semi-portable fire extinguishing equipment and each fixed fire extinguishing system required by subsection (4) must be:

- (a) Approved by the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, under 46 CFR 162.028, 162.029 or 162.039 as applicable; and
- (b) In good serviceable condition.

(8) Fire Extinguishing equipment prohibited.

The carriage of the following types of fire extinguisher is prohibited:

- (a) Dry chemical stored pressure type, not fitted with pressure gauges or indicating devices; and
- (b) Vaporizing liquid type containing carbon tetrachloride, chlorobromomethane, or other toxic vaporizing liquids.

**RULE 8. BACKFIRE FLAME CONTROL.**

(1) Applicability.

This section applies to all boats to which this Act applies, in which gasoline engines are installed, except boats equipped with outboard motors.

(2) Backfire flame control requirements.

No person may use a boat to which this section applies, unless each engine is provided with at least one of the following means of backfire flame control:

- (a) A backfire flame arrestor;
- (b) An engine air and fuel induction system;
- (c) An attachment to the carburetor or a location of the engine air induction system by means of which flames caused by engine backfire will be dispersed to the atmosphere outside the boat in such a manner that the flames will not endanger the boat, persons on board, or nearby vessels and structures; or
- (d) On boats having an integrated engine-boat design, an engine air induction system.

(3) Approval; Marking; Condition

With the exception of subsections (4) and (5), no person may use a boat to which this section applies, unless each backfire flame control installation required by subsection (2) is:

- (a) Approved by the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard under 46 CFR 162;
- (b) Marked according to the requirements in 46 CFR 162; and
- (c) Maintained in good and serviceable condition.

(4) Installation not requiring approval.

Any attachment designed, constructed, and installed under the provisions of subsection (2)(c) does not require approval and labeling. However, all attachments shall be of metallic construction with flame-tight connections, firmly secured to withstand vibrations, shock and engine backfire, and maintained in good serviceable condition.

(5) Installation with prior approval.

Installation consisting of backfire flame arresters or engine air and fuel induction systems bearing approval No.162.015, need not meet the detailed requirements of subsection (4) and may be continued in use as long as they are maintained in good and serviceable condition. Replacements shall meet the applicable conditions in this Section.

**RULE 9. VENTILATION.**

(1) Applicability

This section applies to all motorboats used on waters subject to the jurisdiction of this state, except as provided for in subsection (3) of this rule.

(2) Prohibition.

No person may use a motorboat propelled by machinery and is not more than 65 feet in length unless it meets the requirements of subsection (3). This section does not apply to tugboats and towboats propelled by steam.

(3) Tanks and Engine Spaces.

(a) All motorboats or motor vessels to which this section applies, except open boats, the construction or decking over of which is commenced after April 25, 1940, and which use fuel having a flash-point of 110 degrees Fahrenheit, or less, shall have at least 2 ventilator ducts fitted with cowls or their equivalent, for the efficient removal of explosive or flammable gasses from the bilges of every engine and fuel tank compartment. There shall be at least one exhaust duct installed so as to extend from the open atmosphere to the lower portion of the bilge and at least one intake duct installed so as to extend to a point at least midway to the bilge or at least below the level of the carburetor air intake. The cowls shall be located and trimmed for maximum effectiveness and in such a manner so as to prevent displaced fumes from being recirculated.

(b) As used in this section, the term "Open Boats" means those motorboats or motor-vessels with all engine and fuel tank compartments and other spaces to which explosive or flammable gasses and vapors from these compartments may flow, open to the atmosphere and so arranged as to prevent the entrapment of such gasses and vapors within the vessel.

**RULE 10. NAVIGATION LIGHTS.**

(1) Applicability.

Every vessel subject to these regulations in all weather, from sunset to sunrise, and other periods of reduced visibility, shall carry and exhibit the following lights when underway, and during such time no other lights which maybe mistaken for those prescribed shall be exhibited.

(2) Power-Driven Vessels

(a.) A power-driven vessel less than 20 meters (65.6 ft) shall exhibit navigation lights as shown in Table V. If the vessel is less than 12 meters (39.4 ft) in length, it shall exhibit the lights shown in Table V, figure 1, or figure 2.

(b.) On a vessel less than 12 meters (39.4 ft) in length, the masthead light must be 1 meter (3.3 ft) higher than the sidelights. If the vessel is 12 meters or more in length and less than 20 meters (65.6 ft) the masthead light must be not less than 2.5 meters (8.2 ft) above the gunwale.

(c.) A power-driven vessel less than 50 meters (164 ft) in length may, but is

not obligated to be equipped with, a second masthead light abaft and higher than the forward one.

(3) Sailing Vessels and Vessels under oars

(a.) A sailing vessel less than 20 meters (65.6 ft) in length shall exhibit navigation lights shown in Table V, figure 3. The lights may be combined in a single lantern and carried at the top of the mast as shown in figure 3.

(b.) A sailing vessel less than 7 meters (23 ft.) in length shall if practicable, exhibit the lights shown in Table VII or VIII, if not, shall have ready at hand a white light exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision (see Table V, figure 4).

(c.) A vessel under oars may display those lights prescribed for sailing vessels shown in Table VII or VIII. If not so equipped, shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision (see Figure I).

**RULE 11. WHISTLES AND BELLS.**

(1) Applicability.

This section applies to all motorboats used on waters subject to the jurisdiction of this state. As used in this section "Motorboat" means every vessel propelled by machinery and not more than 65 feet in length except tugboats and towboats propelled by steam.

(2) Prohibition.

No person may use a motorboat to which this section applies unless it meets the requirements of subsection (3) and Table III.

(3) Requirements.

All motorboats using the waters subject to the jurisdiction of this state shall be equipped with the following:

(a) An efficient whistle or other sound producing mechanical device as set forth in Table III, except:

(1) Motorboats engaged in a race which has been previously arranged or announced, or while engaged in such navigation as is incidental to the tuning up of a boat and engines for the race, need not carry the devices required by Table III.

(b) An efficient fog bell, except that the following motorboats need not carry such a bell:

(1) Motorboats of less than 26 feet in length (Classes A and 1).

(2) Motorboats engaged in a race previously arranged or announced, or while engaged in such navigation as is incidental to the tuning up of the motorboat and engines for the race.

## **RULE 12. VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS**

### (1) Applicability.

This Section applies to all boats used on the coastal waters of this State.

### (2) Classification of Visual distress signals.

A visual distress signal is a device approved by the Commandant, United States Coast Guard under Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations part 160 or certified by the manufacturer under 46 Code of Federal Regulations parts 160 and 161. The Federal requirements for visual distress signals are located in 33 CFR part 175.

### (3) Visual distress signals required.

(a) No person shall use a vessel 16 feet or more in length unless visual distress signals selected from Table IV in the number required, are on board. Devices suitable for day use and for night use, or combination devices designed for both day and night use, must be carried.

(b) Between sunset and sunrise, no person may use a boat less than 16 feet in length unless visual distress signals suitable for night use, selected from Table III in the number required, are on board.

(c) When a visual distress signal carried to meet these regulations requires a launcher, a launcher approved under Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations 160.28 is required.

### (4) Exceptions.

(a) The following persons need not comply with Section 7 of these regulations; however, each must carry on board visual distress signals suitable for night use, selected from Table IV, of these regulations in the number required, between sunset and sunrise.

(1) A person competing in an organized marine parade, regatta, race, or similar event;

(2) A person using a manually propelled boat; or,

(3) A person using a sailboat of completely open construction not equipped with propulsion machinery, under 26' in length.

### (5) Stowage.

(a) No person may use a boat unless the visual distress signals are readily accessible.

### (6) Serviceability.

(a) No person may use a boat unless each signal is in serviceable condition and the service life, indicated by a date marked on the signal, has not expired.

### (7) Marking.

(a) No person may use a boat unless each signal required is legible marked with the approval number or certification statement as specified in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 160 and 161.

(8) Prohibited use.

- (a) No person in a boat shall display a visual distress signal on waters to which these regulations apply under any circumstance except a situation where assistance is needed because of immediate or potential danger to the persons on board.

**RULE 13. IDENTIFICATION OF HULLS**

(1) Applicability.

This section applies to all boats which are used on waters subject to the jurisdiction of this state except:

- (a) Foreign vessels temporarily using waters subject to the jurisdiction of this state;
- (b) Military or public vessels of the United States, except recreational-type public vessels;
- (c) A vessel whose owner is a state, other than this state, or subdivision thereof, which is used principally for governmental purposes, and which is clearly identifiable as such; and;
- (d) Ship's lifeboats.

(2) Hull Identification Numbers Required.

Except as provided in Subsection (1) of this rule:

- (a) Each manufacturer of a boat hull shall identify that hull with a hull identification number that meets the requirements of this section;
- (b) Each person who imports a boat or boat hull shall identify that hull with a hull identification number that meets the requirements of this section, unless the manufacturer of that hull or boat has already identified the hull with a hull identification that meets the requirements of this section; and
- (c) No person may assign the same first eight characters of a hull identification number to more than one boat hull.

(3) Hull identification Number Format.

Each hull identification number required by subsection (2) of this rule must consist of 12 characters as follows:

- (a) The first three characters must consist of a manufacturer identification assigned under subsection (6) of this rule.
- (b) Characters 4 through 8 must be assigned by the manufacturer and must be letters of the English alphabet or Arabic numerals or both, except the letters I, O, and Q.
- (c) Characters 9 through 12 must indicate the date of certification. The characters must be either:
  - (1) Arabic numerals with characters 9 and 12 indicating the month and characters 11 and 12 indicating the last two numerals of the year; or
  - (2) A combination of Arabic numerals and letters of the English alphabet with character 9 indicated as "M", characters required by subsection (3) of this rule if they are separated from the hull identification number by a hyphen.

(4) Additional Characters in Hull Identification Number.

A manufacturer may display additional characters after the 12 characters required by subsection (3) of this rule if they are separated from the hull identification number by a

hyphen.

(5) Hull Identification Number Display.

(a) The hull identification number must be carved, burned, stamped, embossed, or otherwise permanently affixed to the outboard side of the transom, or if there is no transom, to the outermost starboard side at the end of the hull that bears the rudder or other steering mechanism, above the waterline of the boat in such a way that alteration, removal or replacement would be obvious and evident.

(b) The character of the hull identification number must be no less than one-fourth of an inch in height.

(6) Manufacturer Identification Assigned.

(a) Each person required by subsection (2) of this rule to affix a hull identification number may request a manufacturer identification from the U. S. Coast Guard (GBBC), 400 Seventh Street. SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. There is no charge for the assignment.

**RULE 14. UNIFORM STATE WATERWAY MARKER SYSTEM.**

(1) State Agency May Make Regulations.

The Department of Environmental Management may make rules for the uniform marking of the water areas in this state through the placement of aids to navigation prescribed by the United States Coast Guard. No city, county, or person shall mark or obstruct the waters of this state in any manner so as to endanger the operation of watercraft or conflict with the marking system prescribed by the Department of Environmental Management.

(2) Prima Facie Evidence of Reckless Operation.

The operation of any vessel within prohibited areas that are marked as swimming areas, shall be Prima Facie evidence of reckless operation in a judicial or administrative enforcement proceeding.

(3) Violation of Regulatory Type Markers.

It shall be unlawful for a person to operate a vessel on the waters of this state in a manner other than that prescribed or permitted by regulatory markers as defined in subsection one of this rule.

(4) Interference with Aids or Markers.

No person shall moor or fasten a vessel to or willfully damage, tamper, remove, obstruct, or interfere with any aid to navigation or regulatory marker established pursuant to this Act.

**RULE 15. ACCIDENTS, CASUALTY, VANDALISM, AND THEFTS.**

(1) Reporting of accidents, casualty, vandalism, and thefts.

(a) The owner or operator of any vessel on the waters of this state, involved, or whose vessel is involved, in an accident, casualty, vandalism, or theft where the value of or the damage is in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500), or other casualty which results in death or injury to a person, shall report the same, and immediately give notice of the

incident to the Department of Environmental Management or to a nearby office of local or state police.

(b) Examples of casualties that are required to be reported are: A collision between two vessels where the total property damage to either or both vessels is estimated to be more than five hundred dollars (\$500). A grounding of a vessel that results in property damage in excess of \$500. An collision with a fixed object (dock, pier, buoy, etc.) that results in property damage in excess of \$500. Any injury to a person e.g. struck by a vessel, falls overboard, falls caused by wake, as a result of a collision, collision, being towed by a vessel, riding on a vessel etc. A person becoming seriously ill or dying from medical causes not related to boating is not a reportable accident. Any theft or act of vandalism that causes damage or loss of equipment to or from a vessel shall be reported.

#### **RULE 16. RULES OF NAVIGATION.**

These rules and regulations adopt the following:

- (a) The International Navigation Rules Act of 1977, P.L. 95-75, 33 U.S.C. §§1601-1608, 33 CFR Part 80 through 82, and the amendments to the 72 COLREGS effective June 1, 1983 48 FR 28634, for the operation of vessels not greater than sixty-five (65') in length, on the waters of this state south of the COLREG's Demarcation line.
- (b) The Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980, P.L. 96-591, 33 U.S.C. §§ 2001-2038 33 CFR 84 through 90 for the operation of vessels not greater than sixty-five feet (65') in length on the waters of this state north of the COLREG's Demarcation Line.

#### **RULE 17. PENALTIES.**

Any person who violates any provision of these regulations promulgated under R.I. General Laws §46-22 shall be subject to the imposition of a penalty for each and every violation as provided in R. I. General Law § 46-22-19.

#### **RULE 18. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, of the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

#### **RULE 19. SUPERSEDED RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

On the effective date of these Rules and Regulations, all previous Rules and Regulations, and any policies regarding the administration and enforcement of THE REGULATION OF BOATS Title 46-22 of RIGL shall be superseded. However, any enforcement action taken by or application submitted to, the Department prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations in effect at the time the enforcement action was taken, or application filed.

#### **RULE 20. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The foregoing Rules and Regulations "REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR

BOATS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT”, after due notice, are hereby adopted and filed with the secretary of State this    day of    , 1998 to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 46-22, 42-35, 42-17.1, 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

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, Director

Notice Given on: June 17, 1998

Public Hearing held:

Filing Date:

Effective Date:

TABLE I  
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE EQUIVALENTS

46 CFR 160.002	LIFE PRESERVER	Performance Type I personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.003	LIFE PRESERVER	Performance Type I personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.004	LIFE PRESERVER	Performance Type I personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.005	LIFE PRESERVER	Performance Type I personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.009	RING LIFE BUOY	Performance Type IV personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.047	BUOYANT VEST	Performance Type II personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.048	BUOYANT CUSHION	Performance Type IV personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.049	BUOYANT CUSHION	Performance Type IV personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.050	RING LIFE BUOY	Performance Type IV personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.052	BUOYANT VEST	Performance Type II personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.053	WORK VEST	Performance Type V personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.055	LIFE PRESERVER	Performance Type I personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.066	BUOYANT VEST	Performance Type II personal flotation device
46 CFR 160.064	SPECIAL PURPOSE WATER SAFETY DEVICE	A device intended to be worn, may be equivalent to other types of devices. A Type III device is marked "may not turn an unconscious wearer." A device intended to be grasped is equivalent to a Type IV device.

**TABLE II (a)  
FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS LESS THAN 65' IN LENGTH**

<b>LENGTH OF VESSEL</b>	<b>WITHOUT AN APPROVED FIXED FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM</b>	<b>WITH AN APPROVED FIXED FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM</b>
Less than 26' in length	1 B-I	0
26' to less than 40'	2 B-I or 1 B-II	1 B-I
40' to 65'	3 B-I or 1 B-I and 1 B-II	2 B-I or 1 B-II

**TABLE II(b)  
FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MOTOR VESSELS**

<b>GROSS TONNAGE (OVER</b>	<b>GROSS TONNAGE (NOT OVER)</b>	<b>NUMBER OF EXTINGUISHERS</b>
	<b>50 GT</b>	<b>01 B-II</b>
<b>50 GT</b>	<b>100 GT</b>	<b>02 B-II</b>
<b>100 GT</b>	<b>500 GT</b>	<b>03 B-II</b>
<b>500 GT</b>	<b>1000 GT</b>	<b>06 B-11</b>
<b>1000 GT</b>		<b>08 B-II</b>

In addition to the hand portable fire extinguishers required above, the following fire extinguishing equipment shall be fitted in the machinery space:

- (1) One type BII hand portable fire extinguisher shall be carried for each 1,000 H.P. of the main engines or fraction thereof. However, not more than 6 such extinguishers need be carried.
- (2) On motor vessels of over 300 gross tons, either one Type BIII semi-portable fire extinguishing system or a fixed fire extinguishing system shall be fitted in the machinery space.

**TABLE III  
SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS**

<b>LENGTH OF VESSEL</b>	<b>TYPE OF DEVICE REQUIRED</b>
Less than 12 meters (-39.4')	Some means of making an efficient sound signal
12 meters to less than 20 meters (39.4' to -65.6')	whistle audible for ½ mile (a police whistle or equivalent is not acceptable) A Bell is required

**TABLE IV**  
COAST GUARD APPROVED VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS

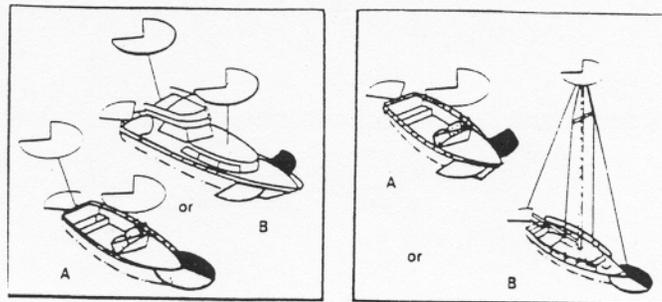
<b>Approval Number</b>	<b>Device Description</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Required</b>
46 CFR 160.021	HAND-HELD RED FLARE DISTRESS SIGNAL	DAY/NIGHT	03ea
46 CFR 160.022	FLOATING ORANGE SMOKE DISTRESS SIGNAL	DAY ONLY	03ea
46 CFR 160.024	PARACHUTE RED FLARE DISTRESS SIGNAL *	DAY/NIGHT	03ea
46 CFR 160.036	HAND-HELD ROCKET-PROPELLED PARACHUTE RED FLARE DISTRESS SIGNAL	DAY/NIGHT	03ea
46 CFR 160.037	HAND-HELD ORANGE SMOKE DISTRESS SIGNAL	DAY ONLY	03ea
46 CFR 160.057	FLOATING ORANGE SMOKE DISTRESS SIGNAL	DAY ONLY	03ea
46 CFR 160.066	DISTRESS SIGNAL FOR BOATS, RED AERIAL PYROTECHNIC FLARE **	DAY NIGHT	03ea

\* These signals require use in combination with a suitable launching device approved under 46 CFR 160.028.

\*\* These devices may be either meteor or parachute assisted type. Some of these signals may require use in combination with a suitable launching device approved under 46 CFR 160.280.

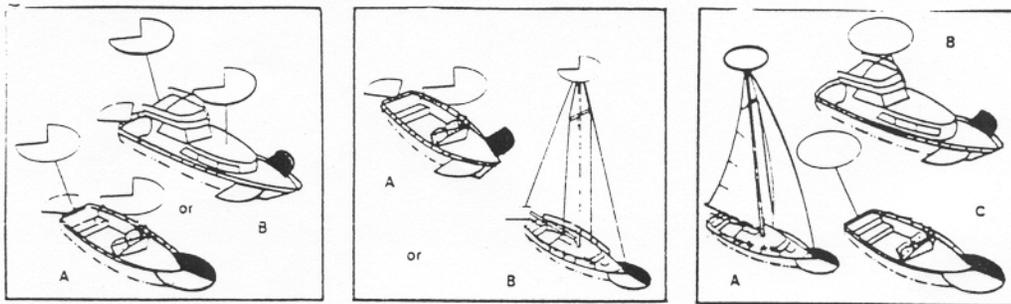
TABLE V

FIGURE 1



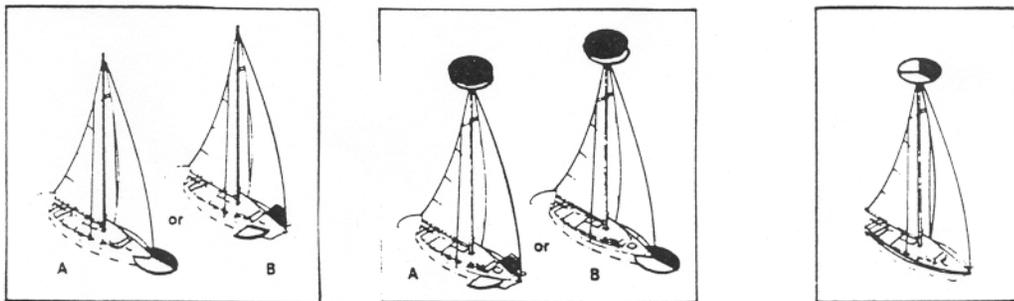
Power-driven vessel less than 20 meters in length

FIGURE 2



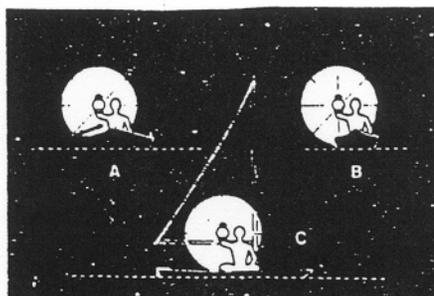
Power-driven vessel less than 12 meters

FIGURE 3



Sailing vessel less than 20 meters

FIGURE 4



Sailing vessel less than 7 meters or a vessel under oars